(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the investigations made so far;

(d) whether Government have been able to identify the persons or group behind the poaching; and

(e) the causes of recurrent poaching in forest reserves and national parks despite recent legislative measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Three incidents of poaching of lions have been recorded on 3/3/2007, 30/3/2007 and 14/4/2007 involving poaching of total 8 lions.

(c) and (d) As reported by the State Governments, the C.I.D. branch of Gujarat Police has been entrusted with enquiry of poaching of the lions. Two offences have been registered in connection with poaching of Asiatic lions in Gir Sanctury and total 18 accused have been arrested.

(e) The main cause of poaching of wild animals are very high prices of wildlife produce in the clandestine international market and increased man-animal conflict due to pressure on wildlife habitats.

Relocation of Asiatic Lions

2786. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ascertained the fact of recent reports of poaching of Asiatic Lions in Gir forest;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering relocating the Asiatic Lions to another location;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government have identified the location for relocation; and

(f) whether the relocation of Asiatic Lions has commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Three incident of poaching of lions have been recorded on 3/3/2007, 30/3/2007 and 14/4/2007 involving poaching of total 8 lions.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Relocation of lions was planned for its better conservation against outbreak of epidemics, which may cause decimation of a localized population.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun carried out a survey in 1993-94 in various protected areas and forests of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, and finally recommended the Kuno-Palpur sanctuary in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh as most suitable site for establishing an alternate home for Asiatic lion. However, relocation of the lions has not commenced yet.

Cleaning of Yamuna in Delhi

2787. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has proposed eight point charter for cleaning Yamuna river in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Pench National Park

2788. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 257.26 square kilometre area notified from Maharashtra as Pench National Park in 1975 was declared as the 25th Tiger Reserve of India in 1998 and a contiguous area in MP of 757.85 square kilometre was also declared as the 19th Tiger Reserve in 1992;

(b) if so, whether Pench National Park situated in Nagpur district has only one village situated inside the Park, but attention is also required to